

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to speak today about the importance of Federal investment in biomedical research. There are many reasons to invest in biomedical research, but the two most important reasons are very simple: biomedical research saves lives, and it is good for Pennsylvania's economy and the Nation's economy. A thriving biomedical sector creates jobs, and we simply cannot afford, from a public health or economic standpoint, not to support biomedical progress.

I have been a strong and vocal advocate for Federal funds to support biomedical research, including funding for the National Institutes of Health—NIH. In 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, I authored a letter in support of funding for the NIH; the letter in 2013 was signed by a bipartisan group of 51 Senators.

In 2012, Pennsylvania researchers received \$1,431,589,539—\$1.4 billion—in grants from the National Institutes of Health; the State is ranked fourth in the Nation for the number of grants awarded. The funding in 2012 supported over 3,400 competitive grants to almost 100 Pennsylvania companies or universities; in turn, these grants supported thousands of jobs across the State—an estimated 2,500 in state jobs and total employment impact of over 24,000 jobs.

Long-term deficits are not sustainable, and government spending must be reduced; however, we should not indiscriminately slash funding for good programs, like medical research, that benefit Pennsylvanians, ensure our global competitiveness and invest in our economic future. I have been a champion for the continued growth of the National Institutes of Health, NIH, which drives progress of biomedical research.

While the United States has been the world leader in medical research, other nations such as China are dramatically ramping up their investment in medical research, creating new competition and threatening America's dominance in the field. We must continue to invest in medical research and maintain the capacity we currently have to support work that benefits all Americans.

We risk a scenario in which promising young researchers, seeing the struggles of their mentors and older colleagues to secure funding for their work, will choose a different path, putting a whole generation of scientists at risk. That capacity, that talent, once lost will not easily come back. Failure to invest in research now is a failure to invest in our own future, and is incredibly shortsighted. We must work to support the basic research that has the potential to lead to major advances in medical treatments and improved outcomes for patients.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING NIGHTFORCE OPTICS

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as National Small Business Week comes to a close I would like to rise today to recognize Nightforce Optics of Orofino, ID, an inspirational small business that has grown and expanded in spite of the economic challenges of the last half decade. Founder Dr. Ray Dennis is an avid hunter and shooter from Australia who had a dream of manufacturing and selling riflescopes of unmatched quality in the United States. His dream led him on a search for a location to help make this vision a reality. Dr. Dennis was ultimately drawn to the beautiful city of Orofino in my home State. A friendly business climate, an enthusiastic labor base, and close proximity to major shipping centers made Orofino, ID the perfect place to establish Nightforce Optics.

In 1999, Nightforce Optics started with four employees occupying a small manufacturing facility. Today, Nightforce Optics employs over 100 people and has expanded their Orofino headquarters to a 35,187 square foot facility. Nightforce is committed to hiring a local workforce, as well as attracting specialized craftsmen and women to Idaho. Throughout this time, the company has delivered the utmost quality, performance, and craftsmanship of their products to customers. This dedication became self-evident as hunters, marksmen, police, and military users have come to revere Nightforce Optics as a top-tier brand in the industry.

Companies like Nightforce represent a critical part of the economy and even national security for the United States. Nightforce riflescopes produced in Orofino, ID have been used by U.S. servicemen in operations all around the globe. It is my opinion that the U.S. military should always have available the best in quality and technology, and it is in small businesses like Nightforce Optics that we often find the innovative ideas and determination that can make these products available.

By 2011, Nightforce underwent a \$1 million expansion, resulting in improved manufacturing and research and development capabilities. This investment has directly led to the company's recent introduction of new, innovative products that otherwise might never have been developed.

Although we hear over and over again that the national climate for promoting small business needs to improve, it is refreshing to hear that a sportsman from Australia with an idea and motivation relocated to Idaho to build his dream. Every year, thousands and thousands of products come from Orofino, ID with a label reading "Made in USA." I commend Dr. Ray Dennis for investing in American entrepreneurship and to Nightforce Optics for representing a small business with in-

genuity and local ties that I am proud to honor as Idaho's Small Business of the Day.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:10 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOLF) has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 475. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include vaccines against seasonal influenza within the definition of taxable vaccines.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Res. 181. A resolution recognizing the sesquicentennial of West Virginia and commemorating its history, people, and culture; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KING, and Mr. BROWN):

S. Res. 182. A resolution congratulating the American Dental Hygienists' Association on the 100th anniversary of the profession of dental hygiene and commending its work to improve the oral health of the people of the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 380

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 380, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and update the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative for grants to address the problems of individuals who experience trauma and violence related stress.

S. 647

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr.